

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 and 18 to 33 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and substitute new Claims 34 to 41 therefor, as follows:

1. to 33. (Cancelled)

Please add Claims 34 to 39, as follows:

34. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a first image bearing member;

a second image bearing member;

a laser unit for forming electrostatic latent images on said first and second image bearing members, respectively, wherein said laser unit comprises a first laser element which is arranged to irradiate said first image bearing member and a second laser unit which is arranged to irradiate said second image bearing member;

a rotary polygonal mirror positioned for common scanning of laser beams emitted from said laser unit; and

toner image forming means for forming toner images on a recording material by toner development of the electrostatic latent images formed on said first and second image bearing members;

wherein said laser unit further comprises a first lens barrel portion which holds said first laser element, and a second lens barrel portion which holds said second laser element; and

wherein a part of a side wall of said first lens barrel portion is shared with a part of a side wall of said second lens barrel portion.

35. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein said laser unit further comprises a first lens supporting portion which supports a first lens provided on a side of a tip of the first lens barrel portion, and a second lens supporting portion which supports a second lens provided on a side of a tip of the second lens barrel portion.

36. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said first and second lenses are bonded to said first and second lens supporting portions, respectively.

37. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said first and second lens supporting portions have projections that are projected from the tips of said first and second lens barrel portions, respectively, in order to support parts of circumferential surfaces of said first and second lenses, respectively.

38. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 37, wherein the projections support parts of the circumferential surfaces of the first and second lenses, respectively, off a position in which the circumferential surfaces of said first and second lenses are close to each other.

39. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein said first and second laser elements are fixed to a common electric substrate.

40. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein laser beams emitted from the first and second laser elements have an inclination relationship with each other so as to come close to each other.

41. (New) An image forming apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein an optical case houses said laser unit and said rotary polygon mirror.